



19th March 2020

To all of our St. Jude's families,

First of all, a MASSIVE thank you for your support this week. It is a stressful and worrying time for everyone. And yet, as numbers have dwindled amongst the pupils, they have done an amazing job at keeping the 'St. Jude's spirit', of which we should all be immensely proud, going.

Last night, after the government announcement that schools would be open for the children of key workers and our most vulnerable pupils, I have put together a plan to make sure that ALL families have regular contact from school during the closure. Teachers will receive a pupil list today and each one of them has been allocated a family to maintain contact with during term time. Every family should receive a phone call before the Easter holiday. This is general 'hello' phone call and an opportunity to ask the adult who calls you any questions about work etc. If we remain closed after Easter, a call will be made during the week after the holiday too and at other times depending on the length of the school closure. For some families, depending on their needs, these calls may be more frequent; the Local Authority have advised that this is a necessity.

I would like tomorrow to be a special day for the pupils who are in. The Boutique will run as normal and it is a non-uniform day. Please send £1 in for the children to buy a Mother's Day gift. In the afternoon, I would like the children to have a party. Kitchen staff are making some cakes for it. If you have anything that you feel able to contribute to the party then it would be gratefully received. However, I totally understand that, with the current empty shelves in our supermarkets, this may not be an option. The aim is to have fun and we can do that without a pile of food! I have some Easter eggs that can be used as prizes for games. Who doesn't love pass the parcel!?

Moving forward, please be aware that, if school remains closed after the Easter break, we will make some provision for some families. I have already spoken to some NHS workers and other key workers. Today, families are being provided with an emergency mobile number, which I will monitor, to inform me of the requirements for KEY workers and a small group of others pupils who fit another criteria. We cannot provide this support to the wider community as it contravenes government guidance. It must also be made clear that if only one parent is a key worker, the government (and so do we) expect the other parent to take responsibility for the care of their child/children. The government are set to issue further guidance on what exactly which professions fall in to this category but for the moment our understanding is that these following groups will be in need of school support:

- Anyone working in the NHS

- Anyone working in social care
- Other critical workers such as police officers and delivery drivers.

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Some families have requested that school provide lunch food for their child/children if they are entitled. We have prepared food parcels for those who have requested them. These are to provide food to prepare lunch for the children who are entitled for the next two weeks and, perhaps, there will be a little left for the Easter holiday too. There is nothing fancy on offer, but I hope that it helps. For those families who have requested one, the first parcel can be collected tomorrow from 2.30pm. **Please go to the hall door for this.** After the Easter holiday, if school remains closed, you will be contacted to make arrangements for further parcels to be distributed. Please remember, these are not intended to feed a whole family.

Our emergency number is: 07391846925

This number will also be available on our school website. It is for use for key workers in this current situation and a small group of pupils identified under a different criteria to confirm their childcare needs with school. It can also be used if there is a CRITICAL incident.

If a child is in immediate danger of significant harm a call should be made to CASS on 0121 303 1888.

If you encounter a dangerous or unsafe situation please contact the police.

Local foodbanks information can be found

here: <https://www.findfoodbanksbrum.org.uk/about-us/directory/>

The waiting room <https://the-waitingroom.org/> (You can also contact Mrs Orton to ask for assistance.)

Thanks again for your wonderful support.

God Bless and keep safe,

B. M. Smith (Headteacher)

I have put this Bible reading here. I think that it sums the community of St. Jude's up. It is the Bible reading that means the most to me. Xxx

Colossians 3:14-17

And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The word of the Lord

So, let us be thankful for what we do have which is a lot. Thankful for God's grace in our lives. Thankful for our families, friends and colleagues. Thankful for the NHS staff and others that are working so hard at this difficult time. Thankful for the community which brings all here. It is very special.